WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Fall in private investment

1177. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the Economic Survey, 2005, the private investment in agriculture has substantially gone down in recent years from around Rs. 38000 crores in 2001-02 to just Rs. 30500 crores in 2004-05 if so, whether this is because of a fall in supporting public expenditure; and

(b) what would be its implications for the agrarian employment scenario and the overall food security in coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the Economic Survey 2005-06, the private investment in agriculture (at 1999-2000 prices) has gone down from Rs. 38215 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 30532 crore (quick estimates) in 2004-05. The share of public investment in agricultural gross investment rose from 18.2 per cent in 2001-02 to 29.2 per cent in 2004-05 according to that survey.

(b) According to the Planning Commission, with the overall growth rate of 9 per cent per annum, the projected employment in agriculture would be about 24.5 crore in 2007 and 25.1 crore during 2012. The overall food security system is strengthened with ensuring Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) to the farmers for production of crops. This price support mechanism enables the farmers to sell their produce at remunerative prices, when market prices fall below the MSP level. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) targets below proverty line (BPL) population by providing PDS entitlements at a price lower than that for the above poverty line (APL) population. Other programmes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) are in operation to provide foodgrains to the poorest of the poor households from the BPL.

Agricultural growth rate

†1178. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural growth rate has reached around 0.75 which is very dangerous;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.